

THE DEBITAGE

Say it in French...and it's more scientific!

The Official Newsletter of the Modoc National Forest Heritage Program

Volume 3, Issue 3

June 2014

Special points of interest:

- Student Volunteer program since 1978. Hosting four students in 2014.
- Passport in Time since 1991. Three PIT projects offered in Summer 2014.
- International Volunteer Program inaugurated in 1992.

Also during the FY-13 field season:

- 1,336 volunteer hours were contributed to the Heritage Program.
- MDF crews recorded, re-recorded, updated, monitored or re-flagged 204 archaeological and historic sites.
- 200+ site records were sent to CSU-Chico for trinomial assignments (including backlog site records).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Forest Collection Policy	1
38 th Annual Regional Meeting	2
Buck Mountain Obsidian	3
Archaeological Conservancy	3
American Student Volunteers	4
Historic Photograph Collection	5
Modoc Photo Gallery	6
Contacts	6

Scope of Collections & Forest Collection Policy Revision

This year we have started a review and revision of our *Scope of Collections & Forest Collection Policy* that will include consultations with all of our stakeholders, including Tribes. This document, first put together in 2000, is a statement about our various Heritage collections – prehistoric and historic archaeological materials, Modoc NF historic records and materials including historic photographs, maps, FS manuals, old timber sales, planting, wildlife, range, facilities, roads, recreation and other records and reports from about 1908 through the 1960s. These collections are housed in the Modoc NF Curation Facility & History Archive within the Heritage Shop at the new Supervisor's Office and the Curation Facility Annex located at the South Fork Archaeology & Botany Work Station.

Under the current 2360 FS Handbook (Chp. 60) for Heritage Resources, Forests are to put together what are now called "Collections Management Plans" or CMPs. The current DRAFT version of the Modoc NF plan has been shared with Region 9 of the Forest Service. Troy Ferone, Regional Archaeologist, had the following to say in emails upon receiving the current Modoc DRAFT:

Troy Ferone: *This is AWESOME!!! Thank you Gerry (and Will). Would you mind if I shared this with our R9 Heritage Team and not just the Green Mtn.? To date, none of our forests have put this much time, effort and solid work into drafting a forest-specific CMP and yours is an outstanding example! Let me know if you are ok with that, or would rather keep it close to the vest. Thanks again!*

Gerry Gates: *Free to share...that is what we do on the Modoc. If you go to the Odrive to the **Modoc NF/2300Recreation/2360Heritage** there is a "Modoc Share" folder....all are welcome to borrow from it.*

Troy Ferone: *Thanks again. It will get some good traction here in the east!*

The current DRAFT of the Forest Collection Policy portion, as in the first version, emphasizes that no Native American Graves Protection and Repatriations Act (NAGPRA) defined items may be collected from the field unless in immediate jeopardy of theft or destruction. Otherwise, they are to be left in the field and the appropriate tribal group contacted to inform them of the find and to ask what they wish to be done. This has been and should continue to be the policy followed on this Forest.

Forest Collection Policy Revision (Con't)

Other items that lay outside of NAGPRA definitions and are considered to be “*at risk*” of illegal removal by looters, pothunters, and artifact collectors, or, unfortunately, the casual Forest visitor, may be provenienced (plotted to a site Datum and GPS'd) and collected. These “*at risk*” items are primarily diagnostic projectile points (arrow points, dart points and spear points), shaped manos and pestles, and a few other artifact categories that are “readily evident” as “Indian artifacts” and very likely to be illegally removed. Other items considered to be less at risk are field recorded and gently shoved into the soil and left on site. This policy is primarily in place due to the fact that the main toolstone is obsidian. Obsidian artifacts may be dated by *obsidian hydration* and sourced to a specific obsidian source through *XRF geochemical sourcing* – but the artifact is needed to get this information. At present this information cannot be recovered by simple field recordation. For example, one may find an Elko Eared point made out of chert dating to the Middle Archaic. In this case you have a time range of roughly 2000 BC to 1100 AD for the age of the point and the site it is within. At present, in this area we cannot geochemically source basalt or date it – so the information from this artifact may be primarily recovered from a field analysis/recordation and the point left on site. However, if the same point is made out of obsidian – we can identify the geochemical source (say “Buck Mountain” – see related article on next page) for the obsidian (and address research questions dealing with lithic procurement and possibly trade patterns) and through obsidian hydration narrow the 3,100 year time span down to something like circa 600 AD (+/-100 years, or so) with a micron reading of about 3.2 microns. This narrows the age of the site to circa 500 to 700 AD. But, without the artifact available for these analyses this refined information is lost.

Consultation with interested stakeholders is in its early stages and we anticipate talking with affected Tribal groups (Pit River Tribe, the Klamath Tribes, the Cedarville Rancheria, and the Fort Bidwell Indian Reservation), local historical societies, the Society for California Archaeology, the California State Historic Preservation Office, National archaeological societies, and interested publics. We hope to end up with a reasonable and fair policy that will help to protect and preserve these irreplaceable and non-renewable archaeological resources for the American people.

38th Annual Meeting of “A Regional History & Heritage Group”

In May the Modoc NF Heritage Program hosted the 38th Annual Meeting of “A Regional History & Heritage Group”- the meeting is an informal gathering of archaeologists, historians, librarians, museum professionals, and Native Americans from northern California and southern Oregon who meet annually to share happenings and research in their fields throughout our common territory which crosses the state line. The group has no political connections, but takes its name from the historic efforts which began in 1941 to form what would have been the 50th state at that time combining several counties near the California and Oregon border. Archaeologists from the Alturas and Cedarville BLM offices assisted with the meeting. About 30 people attended the 2-day meeting.

Two interesting videos were shown - *TORN...A film by Jake Martin (2013 - Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology, CSUC)* and *EYES IN STONE – Rock Art on the Modoc (1998 – Modoc NF.)* *TORN* was about the illegal removal of rock art panels from a site on BLM lands in Inyo County. They were both well received.

Local presenters included:

GERRY GATES (Modoc NF): *Ten Research Topics on the Modoc NF Redux*
POLLY TICKNER (Klamath Co Historical Society): *Repairing History – a Walk through the Merrill Historic Cemetery*.
NILES REYNOLDS (Klamath Co Museum): *Sounds of History: Sound Recording and the Production of History*
JENNIFER ROVANPERA (Surprise BLM): *Revisiting an Intaglio in Northwestern Nevada*

POSTER SESSION: Alturas Field Office, Bureau of Land Management:

- 1) *A Big Game Procurement Site, Western Toe of the Warner Mountains, Rock Spring, Modoc County, California*
- 2) *The Antelope Charmer: an Anthropomorphic Figure from Eastern Modoc County, California*

There were five students and their professor, Dr. Mark Tveskov, from the Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Archaeology (SOULA) presenting papers, and a student from Humboldt State University. Dr. Joanne Mack from Notre Dame came the furthest to attend, giving a presentation on early Shasta Valley fisheries. The Annual Award was presented to Julie Cassidy, Shasta-McCloud Management Unit Archaeologist, Shasta-Trinity NF, for her contributions to the group over the years. There was a group dinner at the Brass Rail Thursday night and a field trip to the Logan Slough Site Friday afternoon.

Dr. Tveskov volunteered to host the 2015 annual meeting at Southern Oregon University.

Buck Mountain Obsidian Travels to the Coast

In the current issue of *California* ARCHAEOLOGY (Vol. 6, Iss. 1: June 2014) Shannon Tushingham, PhD from Washington State University at Pullman, reported on a red and black obsidian biface found in association with a contact (Historic) period men's sweathouse at the Red Elderberry site (CA-DNO-26), an ethnographic *Tolowa* village on the Smith River in Del Norte County. The biface is only quite small (measuring 5.6 cm long, 1.7 cm wide, and 0.7 cm thick), but is similar morphologically (blade-like length, central constriction, and fine bifacial flaking) to much larger ceremonial blades (up to 84 cm in length). Large "red and black obsidian bifaces that were owned by wealthy men and were prominently displayed, along with white deerskin and woodpecker scalp headdresses during the White Deerskin Dance, a *Hupa*, *Yurok*, and *Karuk* World Renewal" ceremony.

Using X-ray fluorescence (XRF), the Red Elderberry specimen was sourced as Buck Mountain "mahogany" obsidian from the Warner Mountains in Modoc County. The obsidian source is located on the Modoc National Forest and has been determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Other ceremonial blades from NW California and SW Oregon have also been traced to Buck Mountain. An earlier archaeological report also identified two large bifaces found over 650 miles south in coastal Orange County. These two bifaces were subjected to obsidian hydration analyses and dated (by obsidian hydration and context) to nearly 2,000 years ago! So, Modoc County obsidian has been popular for a very long time and is well travelled!

The current Masthead of *The Debitage* shows Buck Mountain red & black "mahogany" obsidian at the source.

The Archaeological Conservancy & Modoc NF

The Archaeological Conservancy has acquired a parcel of land surrounded by Modoc National Forest land that was recently reported on in their quarterly publication *american archaeology* (vol. 18, No. 1: Spring 2014).



Lowell Thomas (left) and his father, Wes Thomas, pause while recording a petroglyph panel at the Fast Site. [Greg Handa photo]

The site, known as the Fast Site, was surveyed for archaeological resources by Lowell Thomas, a graduate student at California State University at Chico, and volunteers. Lowell was an Archaeological Technician on the Lassen NF. To date, Lowell and crew have located a minimum of 10 discrete lithic scatters, three substantial residential sites that include several rock ring structures and other rock features, projectile points, cores, mortars, pestles, and petroglyphs. It is estimated, based on projectile point styles and other styles of artifacts that the Fast Site was occupied from about

3,000 to 200 years ago. The survey is complete and Thomas is recording all of the cultural features. He developed this project for credit toward his master's degree, and he would like to continue studying the Fast Site and the surrounding area for his thesis project. This is where the Heritage Program on the Modoc NF will assist in his efforts to record the portions of the site complex that carry over onto Modoc NF lands. The significance of this area was first noted back in 1981 by Modoc NF seasonal archaeological technicians however since it was not within a project area that required an archaeological survey no further work was done. The project field notes and air photograph overlays will be made available for Lowell to continue his recording work. Lowell has been signed on as a Modoc NF volunteer to continue survey on FS lands.

Who we are.... American Student Volunteers

This year the Modoc NF is hosting three American Student Volunteers/Trainees in its Heritage Program. These student volunteers are provided with free housing in FS barracks and provided with \$140 in weekly per diem that is paid to them via DirectDeposit. The volunteers are signed up as “Vendors” through ASC and weekly “Request for Reimbursement Forms” (FS-6500-229) are sent, along with a copy of their Volunteer Agreement (OP Form 301a) and Miscellaneous Payments Transmittal Form (FS-6500-232). It usually takes about 3 weeks before the first electronic bank deposit is made. The student volunteers work directly with our paid seasonal archaeological technicians doing both Section 106 project inventories and Section 110 inventories (including *Passport In Time*) and monitoring projects. This provides them with a breadth of on-the-job experience in archaeological survey, site recognition and recording, artifact identification, use of GPS for plotting site and artifact locations and mapping sites.



JASON FIELD is from Carmel, California. He has a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology with a Minor in American Indian and Indigenous Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He was in the Seniors Honors Program and received the Research Potential Award, along with a 3.89 GPA.

Jason has undertaken an archaeological field school in 2013 through Eastern Washington University on the Kalipsel Indian Reservation; as an undergraduate worked at Lake Federsee, Germany doing archaeological survey and excavation in 2012; and undertaken several Internship studies at USB including lithic analysis, potter analysis and shell midden analysis.

He plans to attend Graduate School at Sonoma State University in the Fall.



ASHLEIGH SIMS is from Fair Oaks, California. She has a B.A. in Archaeology and Anthropology with a minor in Geology from the College of Wooster, Ohio.

Ashleigh has undertaken a summer field school in 2012 on the Athienou Archaeological Project (AAP) in Cyprus. As part of her senior independent study thesis she returned to Cyprus (and the AAP field school) in order to conduct her own research at the modern cemetery in the village of the field school. She used GPS units (Trimble XH) to create maps in ArcGIS of the cemetery and conducted a special and social analysis of the cemetery.

She will be attending the Cultural Resources Management M.A. program at Sonoma State University in the Fall.



STEVEN SOLORIO is from Sacramento, California. He has attended Bakersfield College and California State University at Sacramento. In 2013 he attended the University of Nevada's Warner Valley Field School in Oregon learning excavation field survey and site recording (IMACS forms), mapping (compass/pace and GPS/Trimble), geoarchaeology, artifact identification and classification, lithic analysis, floral & faunal identification, artifact illustration, and Total Station setup and application.

Steven has an Enfield Internship as a Laboratory Technician at the CSUS Archaeological Research Center doing sorting, cataloging, identification of artifacts, measuring and typing artifacts, labeling, digitizing site records, and collections management. He is expecting to receive a B.A. in Anthropology from CSUS in December, 2014.

Photos from the Modoc NF Historic Photograph Collection...90+ years ago!



Image 171508: Field trip to the Lava Beds area in 1922. A break for lunch...



Image 188000: Capt. O. C. Applegate of the Oregon Volunteers during the Modoc War of 1872-1873. Photo taken in 1924 as part of a Modoc War sites tour.

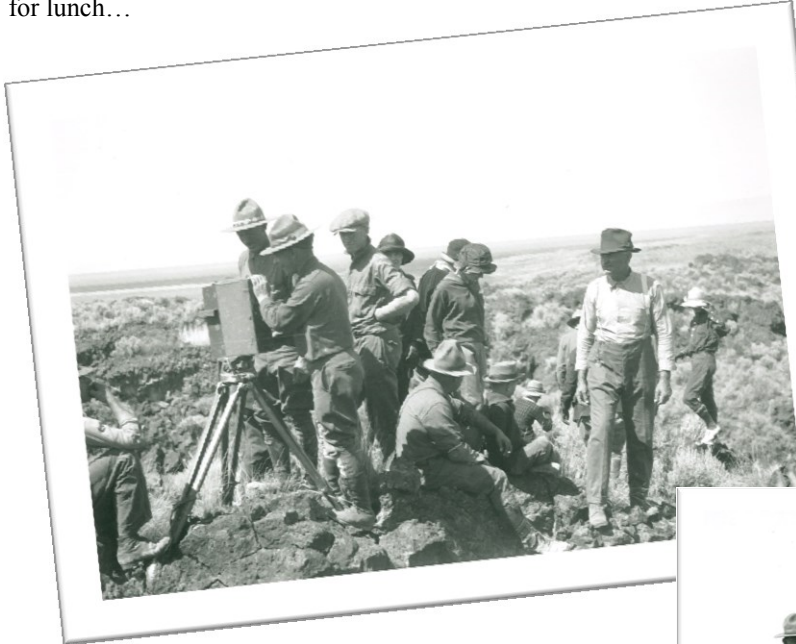


Image 188006: A film crew from San Francisco making a film about the Modoc War at the Lava Beds in 1924 – it would be very interesting if this film has survived the last 90 years in some archive.

Image 188014: Rangers on a field trip in Big Valley Ranger District in 1924 with some vehicle problems?



Our Historic Photograph Collection holds over 2,000 images from the early to mid-20th Century.

HERITAGE RESOURCES on the Modoc National Forest: Photo Gallery – A Mixed Bag of Things.



Lassen/Applegate Trail interpretive sign at Fandango Pass has been re-installed! The sign to the left of the State Monument was blown off of its metal post by a blast from an “armor piercing” round several years ago. Last year the Warner Mountain District Ranger had it re-mounted. Thank you, Buck Creek Fire Crew!



A hand-forged threaded eye bolt from the “Burnett Cut-Off” that connected the Applegate Trail to the Lassen Trail in 1848. This cut-off is being considered as part of the California Trail component of the National Historic Trails System.

**Please enjoy, but do not destroy
your American heritage!**



A “rock ring” house structure at the Logan Slough Site. Excavation in 2000 revealed this to be a Late Archaic to Terminal Period habitation. The site is eligible to the NRHP.

**MODOC NATIONAL FOREST
HERITAGE RESOURCE PROGRAM
225 W. 8TH STREET
ALTURAS, CA 96101**

PHONE: (530) 233-5811 FAX: (530) 233-8709

Heritage Resource Program contacts:

Gerry Gates, Heritage Resource Program Manager
ggates@fs.fed.us
Vicki Adkison, Sec 106 Compliance Archaeologist
yadkison@fs.fed.us
Deb Peck, Heritage Database Manager
dpeck@fs.fed.us